

COLDER THAN DEATH.

Refrigeration for Corpses at the New York Morgue.

The Innovation Will Preserve the Dead and Relieve the Morgue of Much of Its Gruesome Aspect—Details of the System.

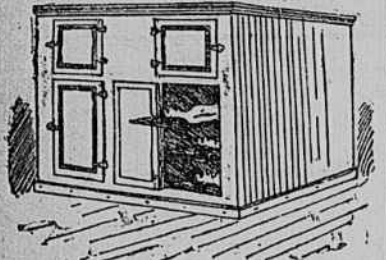
The question of providing some means for the preservation of the dead at the morgue during the summer has at last been definitely settled, and plans for this purpose have now been decided upon, says the New York World.

About two months ago the medical committee of inspection of Bellevue hospital called the attention of the commissioners of the department of charities and correction to the fact, that unless some provision was made at the morgue for the preservation of the dead, the bodies would become unrecognizable from the effects of the heat and mortification.

The commissioners agreed that something should be done. The matter was referred to the committee of inspection, and Dr. Polk and his colleagues, Profs. George L. Peabody, W. Gill Wylie and J. D. Bryant, then gave the subject their combined consideration.

According to their report, it was suggested that a refrigeration process be introduced into the morgue building, constructed and operated on the Lorrillard system, and so arranged that at least provision be made for the placing of a dozen bodies at a time.

These subjects for preservation were not to be those of the general run of those whose deaths occurred through natural or ordinary causes, but the



NEW REFRIGERATOR FOR THE MORGUE.

bodies of victims to sudden and accidental deaths that the law demands should be kept pending a coroner's inquest or judicial investigation.

The refrigeration system for the city morgue has been a long felt want, especially among the poor having relatives or friends dying in the hospitals and public institutions. They frequently have to leave their dead at the morgue for several days after death in order to gather sufficient funds for humane burial.

The system of refrigeration which the medical committee of inspection indorsed is acknowledged to be the best that could be adopted. The principle is on circulation of cold air, the result being absolute dryness, one of the most essential qualities for the preservation of perishable materials. Then there is isolation of all materials from injurious contact with the ice.

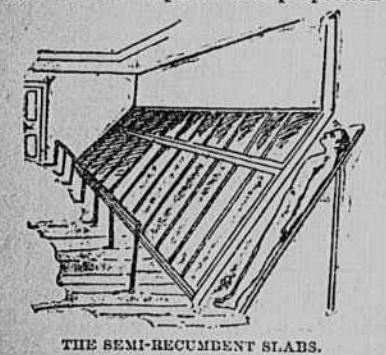
The morgue refrigerator to be placed in use will be 13 feet in length, 7 feet 6 inches in height and having a depth of 7 feet 6 inches. It will be of heavy ash wood, lined throughout with galvanized iron, and having walls insulated with boiler hair felting and sheathing.

The refrigerator will be constructed so as to contain fifteen separate compartments. These compartments will be arranged in two sections, upper and lower, so that there will be provision for six bodies in the upper division and nine in the lower.

The bodies will be placed on a framework, and so arranged that one can be drawn out for inspection from head to foot. Slides containing the given names of the dead are to be placed on the doors of the different compartments.

The ice to create the required cold air is to be placed in tanks built in the refrigerator for the purpose. Not more than 200 tons are needed to supply the capacity. The consumption will not be over 400 pounds of ice every twenty-four hours.

This consumption is allowed for the hottest days, while with ordinary warm weather the expense will proportionately come less.



THE SEMI-RECURRENT SLABS.

The refrigerator will be put in the extension running across the back of the morgue building and which is separated from the main room or repository by folding-doors. Entrance to this place can be had by passing from the keeper's office direct along the passage way leading to the rear side entrance of the main dead room.

This will obviate the necessity of visitors passing through the main dead room. The commissioners of charities and correction are so confident of the success of the new system that they intend to make application for appropriations for next year. A special grant will be asked for the purpose of having the system introduced on a larger scale.

She Drags.

"The summer girl is a peculiarly attractive creature."

"You bet, a regular magnet; draws every cent out of a fellow's pocket sure as lightning."—Light.

Enough Before a Visitor.

Misses (angrily)—If you break another dish you must pay it out of your wages.

Bridge—'I'd be happy to, mum, if I only had me wages.—Munsey's Weekly.

GUATEMALA MOONLIGHT.

A Common Thing for a Senorita to Read in a Hammock at Midnight.

Reading novels at midnight by the light of the moon is not known of in the United States, says the Chicago Tribune, but according to the English wife of Signor Gregorio Revuelto, of Guatemala, it is no uncommon thing to see a senorita reclining in a hammock with a book in her hand on her father's veranda in the Costa Cuca district, Guatemala, between twelve and one o'clock in the morning.

"There are no moonlight nights in this country or in England like we have in Guatemala," said the Spanish planter's wife recently. "The moon is so bright that it is as light outdoors as during the day. English and American poets write about the sublime August moon, etc. They should see a moon in Guatemala during the time it is full. They would then have something to go into ecstasies about."

"It is too hot during the day in Costa Cuca to be out for pleasure, and all our little excursions around the country are arranged to take place at night, when the moon is bright. For instance, when a few friends desire to take a horseback ride around the country, the pleasure is never arranged to take place during the daytime. The night is always selected, and the moon furnishes the light. Picnics, boat rides and all pleasure excursions take place when it is known the moon will furnish the light. I do not exaggerate when I say that it is no uncommon thing to see a young woman reading a novel early in the morning by moonlight."

Sign. Revuelto does not speak much English, but could speak enough to inform all callers that the coffee crop this year will be an immense one in Guatemala, and the cost of the article certainly ought to be cheaper this fall.

CHINESE DRUGS.

Some of the Disgusting Substances Used by Mongolian Physicians.

A Chinese druggist will freely display the most nauseous and disgusting substances as medicine; often he will keep a live deer there in a pen against the time when it will be pounded whole in a mortar, coram populo, to convince customers that his drugs are genuine. Medicines are gulped down by the quart, the prescriber holding that if one ingredient does not do its work another may. Their virtues, nevertheless, are many and mysterious.

A missionary doctor, says Temple Bar, was well acquainted with a native practitioner, a man of considerable intelligence and repute. Him he brought to his home one day and showed with natural pride his three fair-haired little girls. The native hastened to compliment his foreign friend: "Their complexions are indeed beautiful, but, if I may say so, their hair is perhaps hardly dark enough." He produced a bottle. "A dose of this taken internally three times a day would make a wonderful improvement." He went on with more embarrassment: "There is another thing about them that I hardly like to mention." His friend reassured him. "Well, if you will allow me to say, they are all girls. Now, I have at home some pills that are perfectly infallible. Let them take these pills regularly for a month or so, and I promise they will develop into three as fine boys as father could wish for."

The Flannel Shirt.

It is often asked in connection with the great popularity of the summer flannel shirt how it is that flannel will blow both hot and cold, or keep a man warm in winter and cool in summer. The reason really is that flannel is a poor conductor, and hence when the body is covered with it variations in atmospheric temperature are less felt. A good illustration of this can be found in desert and parched countries, particularly Africa, where it is often necessary for the white man to wear heavy woolen clothing to protect his body from the sun and heat. The heat and annoyance from perspiration are terrible under such conditions, but they are preferable to the agony caused by wearing light clothing. Flannel really keeps the heat out in summer just as it keeps it in during winter, and by wearing it all the year round the temperature of the body is kept very nearly uniform.

Measuring with the Eye.

Measuring objects with the naked eye is one of the most difficult tasks a man can set himself, and I don't wonder that it worries so many youngsters at West Point. The other day, at Sportsman's park, there were ten men in the president's box with me, and I offered to set up the eights if any one of them could give the measurements of the big sign I had just erected on the opposite fence, in front of the house whose owner had been making money by renting out seats on the roof. The two worst shots were 50x30 and 12x8, the actual measurement being 22x15. There wasn't a man in the crowd who came within two feet of either measurement, and if we had canvassed the grand stand I doubt if anyone would have got much nearer. Except with an expert, measuring objects or distances with the eye is pure guess work.

Timidity of the Lobster.

The lobster is greatly in dread of thunder, and when the peals are very loud numbers of them drop their claws and swim away for deeper water. Any great fright may also induce them to drop their claws. But new claws begin at once to grow, and in a short time are as large as the old ones, and covered with hard shells. The lobster often drops its shell, when it hides until the new shell is hard enough to protect it.

Won't Eat Peanuts.

That the peanut and the circus properly go together has been proved by a fifteen-year-old boy who has discovered the only animal in the great Barnum-Bailey show which refuses to eat peanuts is the llama. The ponies who used to despise the humble nuts now eat them greedily. Even the elephants tantalize their stomachs with the occasional ones that come their way.

AN ENORMOUS FORTUNE.

The Useful Discovery Which Was Its Foundation.

The story of the enormous fortune accumulated by Mr. Cunliffe Lister (one of the "birthday peers") is one of the romances of "Fortunes Made in Business." "Going one day into a London warehouse, says the Pall Mall Gazette, he came upon a pile of rubbish. He inquired what it was and was told that it was waste silk. 'What do you do with it?' he asked. 'Sell it for rubbish,' he was told." Mr. Lister bought it as rubbish at one-half pence a pound and turned it into gold. He discovered, that is to say, how to use silk waste for the manufacture of plush and other such stuffs, and this discovery was the foundation of his second fortune. His first fortune was made by his invention of a wool-combing machine.

Mr. Lister is an exception in one respect to the general rule of industrial millionaires. He did not begin life with only a sixpence to bless himself with, nor was his early training that of an errand boy. On the contrary, he belongs to an old county family, and was designed (being the fourth son) for the church. Instead, however, of accepting this role of "fool of the family," he insisted on developing his natural talent for mechanical invention, and persuaded his father to give him a mill instead of a university education. As soon as the mill was built he became, as we have described, the architect of his own fortunes. Mr. Lister, besides being the proprietor of the largest industrial establishment in the world owned by one man, is now one of the largest landed proprietors in the north of England. In 1883 he purchased the Swinton Hall, estate of twenty-two thousand acres, and in 1887 the Rixnux Abbey estate of ten thousand acres. The combined value of these two estates is said to be seven hundred and eighty thousand pounds sterling.

CONCERNING PRESCRIPTIONS.

They Belong to the Patient as Soon as He Receives Them.

The law lays down no rule as to the formalities to be observed by a practitioner when prescribing for a patient, and he may, and often does, prescribe perfectly well by merely giving verbal directions to be observed by his patient. When, however, these directions include the use of any particular drugs it is usual and convenient to put them into writing, so that the patient may not make any mistake in ordering the drugs which he is advised to use. The use of giving a written prescription does not affect the property in the piece of paper given to the patient. It is his the moment he receives it, says the British Medical Journal, unless by custom or by special agreement it belongs to some one else. A custom to be good in law must be general, and there is no custom as that a prescription belongs to anyone except the patient at present known in England. The paper, therefore, belongs to the patient unless he agrees with his medical attendant that it shall not.

It is, of course, open to any practitioner to stipulate that his prescriptions shall belong to himself, or shall only be made up by a particular chemist, who shall destroy the paper as soon as he has used it, but it is equally open to each of his patients to decline to be bound by any such stipulation, and to do what he chooses with the paper when once he has got it. Any such stipulations should be clearly brought to the notice of the patients before they consult their medical advisers, so as to give them the option; if only mentioned after the prescription has been given they would not be binding.

CAUGHT ON BOTH SIDES.

Unpleasant Predicament Into Which a Too Talkative Lady Fell.

A good story is told in the Stuttgart Neue Musik Zeitung concerning one of the most eminent German actresses and a theatrical critic equally well known to fame. A number of ladies and gentlemen were the other day traveling together in a railway carriage from Dresden to Leipzig. Only two of the passengers knew each other, but the conversation became general, and the Court theater at Dresden became the subject of discussion. One lady, who had been present the evening before at the representation of "Euryanthe" was loud in her expressions of disapproval. "Worse than all," she exclaimed, "that Mme. Schroder is much too old for her part; her singing is becoming unbearable! Don't you think so, too?" she asked, turning to the gentleman next to her. "Would you not rather tell all this to Mme. Schroder, herself?" She is sitting opposite to you," he replied, coldly. After the general silence which followed this remark, the critical lady turned to the actress with many confused apologies. "It is that horrid critic, Schmieder, who has influenced my judgment concerning your singing. I believe it is he who is always writing against you. He must be a most disagreeable and pedantic person." "Had you not better tell this to M. Schmieder himself?" calmly asked the actress; "he is sitting next to you."

Weighting Silk.

Various methods have been resorted to with different and in some cases far from satisfactory results, in the weighting of silk, particular efforts having been made in this direction by French and German manufacturers, each having its peculiar advantages, or otherwise. In one of the processes now generally adopted, the plan pursued is to reduce the bichloride by water to 30 degrees Reaumur, any stronger solution being likely to injure the fiber, while at 34 degrees the silk is found to become rough and valueless, and at 40 degrees the fiber is dissolved. The silk is well worked in the solution until complete saturation is effected, allowed to remain two hours in the liquor, and then taken out and washed. The adaptation of this simple method is made apparent in the fact that one dip adds about 8 per cent. to the weight, and three treatments give an increase of about 35 per cent. Bare hands are not used in working the goods in bichloride of tin at 30 degrees Reaumur, as it acts injuriously. The silk has to be well washed before being soaped.

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As the Furnace and Rolling Mill, which are situated directly opposite this section of the property, will employ 100 men, the number of hands employed in this section will aggregate fully 1,000 at the outset, justifying a population of 5,000. This population not only assures a large demand for the Company's lots, but will bring custom to almost every line of trade, and thus result in the immediate improvement of the business quarter of the property.

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